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NEWS AND NOTES

THE FEBRUARY MEETING IN NEW JERSEY

The New Jersey Association met in Trenton on February 28. Including the students from the normal school, about a hundred were present. The principal address was given by William E. Bohn, of the Ethical Culture School in New York, who spoke on "Life and Literature and Literature in Life." The speaker urged the necessity of active production rather than mere passive appreciation. Late in the afternoon round tables for the discussion of specific problems were held.

In the business session the annual dues were increased to one dollar. This includes a subscription to the leaflet of the society. The report of the Joint Committee on a Uniform Grammatical Nomenclature was approved. A series of resolutions offered by Paul A. Mertz was adopted, as follows:

RESOLUTIONS PREPARED BY THE COMMITTEE ON CONDITIONS OF TEACHING ENGLISH, AND ADOPTED BY THE ASSOCIATION OF TEACHERS OF ENGLISH OF NEW JERSEY, ON FEBRUARY 28, 1914.

Be it resolved that this Association put itself on record as in favor of the following:

1. That twenty-five pupils in English classes is the largest number compatible with good results.
2. That more than one hundred pupils assigned to any teacher of English for instruction in that subject interferes with the best results in teaching.
3. That the teacher's schedule should consist of no more than five teaching periods daily, if the size of the class be limited to twenty pupils; that it should include no more than four teaching periods if the size of the class be limited to twenty-five.
4. That the total number of teaching periods per week for the teacher of English should be no more than twenty-five.
5. That the schedule of all high-school pupils should include five periods of English weekly.
6. That provision for personal conference with all students at least twice a month regarding composition work should be made; that the time scheduled for this work be regarded as a part of the teacher's instruction time, and allowance be made in the teacher's schedule.
7. That some supplementary reading be definitely expected in every high-school year; that this reading be along the lines of the pupils' interests, and be chosen from the best standard and modern literature; that the definite assignment of specific books be avoided, but that a list of suggested readings be provided.

8. That English be prescribed in every course of study throughout the full time of the high-school course.

9. That where conditions warrant, extra sections should be organized for students of foreign families.

10. That where the size of the school warrants it, at some period in the high-school course, there should be a differentiation between the type of English work done by students in the commercial and technical courses and the type of work done by those in the general and classical courses; where other group divisions are made, that a corresponding division in the English work be made.

11. That there be definite set lessons in oral composition in all English classes.

12. That every classroom be equipped with at least one dictionary, and, if conditions permit, with a small one for every desk; that there be a complete set of approved reference works in every school; that where no school or public libraries exist, a bookcase be provided with as many standard works for the students' use as conditions will permit.

13. That teachers of English use every effort to co-operate with teachers of other subjects and consequently induce them to co-operate with the teachers of English toward correct oral and written expression by pupils.

14. That in order to insure closer articulation with the grammar school, every teacher of high-school English inform herself on grammar-school methods; that there be "promotion of acquaintance and mutual co-operation between teachers in the two classes of schools by means of joint conferences and exchange of visits."

The following officers were elected: President, W. Patterson Atkinson, Lincoln High School, Jersey City; Vice-President, Cornelia MacMullan, State Normal School, Upper Montclair; Secretary-Treasurer, G. S. Harris, Morristown High School; Editor, Homer K. Underwood, High School, Passaic.

The next meeting will be held in New Brunswick.

THE VIRGINIA ENGLISH TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

On the morning of Saturday, February 28, 1914, after the meeting of the National Council in Richmond, the Virginia teachers present were called together for the purpose of forming a state organization to be affiliated with the National Council. This was done in pursuance of a plan already made by the English Section of the State Teachers' Association. Professor Weldon T. Myers, president of the English Section, presided at this meeting. Three brief addresses were made, suggesting kinds of work which the new organization might undertake. Professor C. Alphonso Smith, of the University of Virginia, in an interesting,

informal talk, asked for the co-operation of English teachers in collecting the survivals of the old ballads in the state. Professor J. C. Metcalf, of Richmond College, made suggestions in regard to building up school and other libraries. Professor Franklin T. Baker spoke of the ways in which the new organization might co-operate with the National Council. He suggested that Virginia teachers study and record developments now in process in the language as spoken in the state and that the teaching of it be adapted to live needs; that they form local associations for reading and study and submit the results of the work done to the *English Journal*. He also urged that the teachers become subscribers to the *English Journal* by joining the National Council.

After lively discussion the organization was completed by the adoption of a constitution which had been prepared by a committee consisting of Professor J. C. Metcalf, Mr. H. A. Seckerson, of the Lynchburg High School, and Mr. J. M. Grainger, of the State Normal School at Farmville. The officers elected by the English Section at its meeting last November were retained by the new organization, Professor W. T. Myers of the University of Virginia continuing as president, and Miss Evalina O. Wiggins being made secretary-treasurer. To constitute the Executive Committee the names of Messrs. Seckerson and Grainger were added to those of the officers. A large number of teachers have joined the Association and an active campaign is going forward to get all English teachers in the state into the organization.

THIRTEENTH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE NEW ENGLAND ASSOCIATION

The forenoon session at the annual meeting of the New England Association on March 21 was devoted to the report of a Committee on the Training of English Teachers. The committee carried on an investigation in the colleges and in the schools to find out what training teachers of English have had, what additional training, if any, they would have profited by, and what efforts are being made by various colleges to provide special preparation for English work.

The report, which appears in the *Leaflet* of the Association for April and also in *Education* for the same month, ends with a number of practical suggestions. It is urged that opportunities for practice teaching with competent criticism be provided wherever possible. The best results will be obtained when the student begins practice at the opening of the year and continues through two semesters. Larger secondary schools might profitably take into their employ, direct from college, promising

graduates who intend to make English teaching their profession and who would teach one or two classes under supervision, while assisting in theme-correcting and other work of the department. Courses in the teaching of composition and literature such as are now given in a few institutions should be multiplied. Prospective English teachers should take courses in English history as a background for English literature. They should receive adequate training in reading aloud. Finally, they should have the advantage of survey courses in English literature in which more stress is laid upon the significance of movements and the growth of types than is possible in the usual introductory college courses.

In the afternoon the society listened to a charming address, entitled "A Literary Pilgrimage in England," by Professor W. L. Phelps, of Yale University, and afterward elected officers as follows: President, E. Charlton Black, Boston University; Vice-President, George H. Brown, Brown-Nichols School; Secretary-Treasurer, F. W. C. Hersey, Harvard University; Editor, Charles S. Thomas, Newton High School.

THE SPRING MEETING IN KANSAS

Splendid and inspiring as are the Kansas state teachers' meetings at Topeka every autumn, those who accept the invitation of the State University in the spring and go to Lawrence for the annual High-School Conference experience the delight of intimate and informal touch with others who are doing the same kind of work. This feeling was particularly strong among the English teachers who went to Lawrence for March 20 and 21, for here was the birthplace of the Kansas Association of Teachers of English and this was the second birthday; and the Association had quadrupled in the two years. It was felt that a good deal had been accomplished in awakening an interest in the newer English problems in the state and in enlisting the co-operation of a large number of teachers.

The big things on the program from the English teachers' point of view were the two addresses by Professor James F. Hosis of the Chicago Normal College. The first of these addresses was given at the general meeting on Friday afternoon on "Educational Waste"—waste of equipment, waste of the teacher's energy, waste of the pupils' time. Again on Saturday morning at the English Round Table, Professor Hosis delighted a large audience with his address on "The Reorganization of the English Course." The rest of the Round Table program was given by Kansas members of the Association. Professor N. A. Crawford, of the State Agricultural College, read the President's Address on "The

Development of Good Taste in Reading." He declared that teaching the classics alone had not developed good taste in reading and pleaded for a larger use of good modern works. Miss Mattie Westenhaver, in her paper on "Uniform Terminology and Practice in High-School and Grade English," deplored the waste of the student's time in learning new names and new methods for the same work, and suggested that more uniformity could be brought about by closer personal acquaintance and co-operation between high-school and grade teachers. Superintendent L. A. Lowther, of Emporia, discussed the "Supervision of English Work." His suggestions as to the standards by which a supervisor judges English work were exceedingly helpful. "The Socialization of the English Course" was the subject of a thoughtful paper by Miss Ada Rice, of the Agricultural College, and Professor Frederick N. Raymond, of the University, spoke of the "Co-operation of Departments" from the point of view of a teacher of English to engineers.

At the close of the program a few minor matters of business were attended to, and then the English people joined with the other sections in the annual luncheon to which the University invites its Conference guests.

CHARLOTTE M. LEAVITT, *Secretary*

MEETINGS WITH THE N.E.A.

The National Education Association meets this year at St. Paul, Minnesota, July 4 to 11. The advance announcements indicate that the program will be noteworthy. Among the topics set down are "The Educational Advancement of Women," "Teachers' Salaries and Cost of Living," "The Needs of the Public School," and "The Utility of Parent-Teachers' Organizations."

As in former years, there will be special sessions of the National Council of Teachers of English in connection with the convention of the N.E.A. One of these will be a joint session with the Library Department, at which the "Cultural Possibilities of the Library" will be discussed. Two other sessions will be held. One of these will be a platform meeting at which addresses or papers will be presented by V. C. Coulter, of Warrensburg, Mo., on "The Redistribution of the Elements of the High-School Course"; by E. L. Miller, of Detroit, Mich., on the "Differentiation of the Course in Composition from the Course in Literature"; and by Emma Breck, of Oakland, Cal., on "The Past and Future of the Council." The other session will be devoted to a round table for the discussion of the English work of the elementary school as related to that of the high school.

The Commission on the Reorganization of Secondary Education will conduct a series of conferences during the N.E.A. meeting, and at that of Wednesday, July 8, the second preliminary report of the Joint Committee on the High-School Course in English will be presented. This will consist of a statement of the attainment in English that may reasonably be expected at the end of the sixth school year and a description of the activities in composition and reading, including oral expression, which should be carried on during the six following years. It is expected that the final report of this committee will be presented at Oakland, Cal., about August 16, 1915, when both the N.E.A. and the Council will meet in connection with an International Congress of Education.

THE LOUISVILLE ASSOCIATION

The Louisville Association of English Teachers met at the Girls' High School on March 20. The chief topic discussed was "Vocational English." It was voted to hold two meetings annually. Elizabeth G. Barbour, of the Girls' High School, was re-elected president, and H. B. Moore, of the Boys' High School, secretary.

The Unpopular Review is the unusual title of a new quarterly published by Henry Holt & Co. The name is intended to suggest the editor's purpose, which is to present frank discussions of the questions of the day and to explode, if possible, some of the fallacies from which we as a nation suffer. The chief ones are declared to be that classes can afford to be indifferent to each other, that something can be had for nothing, that it is unnecessary to better the man in order to better his estate, etc. Vol. I is completed with the issue of April-June, 1914, and contains much stimulating reading.

BOOK NOTICES

[Mention under this head does not preclude review elsewhere.]

Initiation into Philosophy. By EMILE FAGUET. New York: Putnam, 1914. Pp. 254. \$1.25 net.

A brief, clear, and well-organized history of philosophy for beginners. The author is a member of the French Academy and author of *Initiation into Literature*. The translator is Sir Howe Gordon, Bart.

Continuity. By OLIVER LODGE. New York: Putnam, 1914. Pp. 131. \$1.00 net.

The presidential address before the British Association for the Advancement of Science for 1913. The author contends we are in danger of depending too much upon